# BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation	)
Against:	)
	)
•	)
Ravi Kant Gogna, M.D.	) Case No. 800-2017-039196
	)
Physician's and Surgeon's	)
Certificate No. A 39659	)
	)
Responde	nt )
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# **DECISION**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on September 4, 2019.

IT IS SO ORDERED: August 5, 2019.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Ronald H. Lewis, M.D., Chair

Panel A

1	XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California				
2	STEVEN D. MUNI				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General RYAN J. YATES Deputy Attorney General				
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10	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
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14	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2017-039196			
15	RAVI KANT GOGNA, M.D. 7417 Spyglass Drive	OAH No. 2019050407			
16	Modesto, CA 95356	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER			
17	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate	DISCH ENVART ORDER			
18	No. A 39659				
19	Respondent.	`			
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21	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-				
22	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:				
23	<u>PARTIES</u>				
24	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board				
25	of California (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented i				
26	this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Ryan J. Yates,				
27	Deputy Attorney General.				
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- 2. Respondent Ravi Kant Gogna, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Stephen M. Boreman, whose address is: One Embarcadero Center, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94111.
- 3. On or about April 4, 1983, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 39659 to Ravi Kant Gogna, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2017-039196, and will expire on July 31, 2020, unless renewed.

## **JURISDICTION**

- 4. Accusation No. 800-2017-039196 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on April 29, 2019. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.
- 5. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2017-039196 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

# ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2017-039196. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

# **CULPABILITY**

- 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2017-039196, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.
- 10. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.
- 11. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of probation, or if an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation is filed against him, before the Medical Board of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2017-039196 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of that proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.
- 12. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

#### RESERVATION

13. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Medical Board of California or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

# **CONTINGENCY**

14. The parties agree that this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Board for its consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Board shall have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this stipulation, Respondent fully understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the time that the Board considers and acts upon it.

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The parties agree that this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be null 15. and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the Attorney General's office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving Respondent. In the event that the Board, in its discretion, does not approve and adopt this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees that should the Board reject this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for any reason. Respondent will assert no claim that the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

# **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

- 16. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.
- 17. The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including copies of the signatures of the parties, may be used in lieu of original documents and signatures and, further, that such copies shall have the same force and effect as originals.
- 18. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree the Board may, without further notice to or opportunity to be heard by Respondent, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

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# **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 39659 issued to Respondent Ravi Kant Gogna, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for six (6) years on the following terms and conditions.

1. <u>CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES - ABSTAIN FROM USE</u>. Respondent shall abstain completely from the personal use or possession of controlled substances as defined in the California Uniform Controlled Substances Act, dangerous drugs as defined by Business and Professions Code section 4022, and any drugs requiring a prescription. This prohibition does not apply to medications lawfully prescribed to Respondent by another practitioner for a bona fide illness or condition.

Within 15 calendar days of receiving any lawfully prescribed medications, Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee of the: issuing practitioner's name, address, and telephone number; medication name, strength, and quantity; and issuing pharmacy name, address, and telephone number.

If Respondent has a confirmed positive biological fluid test for any substance (whether or not legally prescribed) and has not reported the use to the Board or its designee, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to immediately cease the practice of medicine. Respondent shall not resume the practice of medicine until final decision on an accusation and/or a petition to revoke probation. An accusation and/or petition to revoke probation shall be filed by the Board within 15 days of the notification to cease practice. If Respondent requests a hearing on the accusation and/or petition to revoke probation, the Board shall provide Respondent with a hearing within 30 days of the request, unless Respondent stipulates to a later hearing. A decision shall be received from the Administrative Law Judge or the Board within 15 days unless good cause can be shown for the delay. The cessation of practice shall not apply to the reduction of the probationary time period.

If the Board does not file an accusation or petition to revoke probation within 15 days of the issuance of the notification to cease practice or does not provide Respondent with a hearing within 30 days of such a request, the notification of cease practice shall be dissolved.

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2. <u>ALCOHOL - ABSTAIN FROM USE</u>. Respondent shall abstain completely from the use of products or beverages containing alcohol.

If Respondent has a confirmed positive biological fluid test for alcohol, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to immediately cease the practice of medicine. Respondent shall not resume the practice of medicine until a final decision on an accusation and/or a petition to revoke probation. An accusation and/or petition to revoke probation shall be filed by the Board within 15 days of the notification to cease practice. If Respondent requests a hearing on the accusation and/or petition to revoke probation, the Board shall provide Respondent with a hearing within 30 days of the request, unless Respondent stipulates to a later hearing. A decision shall be received from the Administrative Law Judge or the Board within 15 days unless good cause can be shown for the delay. The cessation of practice shall not apply to the reduction of the probationary time period.

If the Board does not file an accusation or petition to revoke probation within 15 days of the issuance of the notification to cease practice or does not provide Respondent with a hearing within 30 days of such a request, the notification of cease practice shall be dissolved.

3. PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE). Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program, that meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1358.

Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete that program. Respondent shall provide any information and documents that the program may deem pertinent. Respondent shall successfully complete the classroom component of the program not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of the program not later than the time specified by the program, but no later than one (1) year after attending the classroom component. The professionalism program shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

A professionalism program taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the program would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the program been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the program or not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

4. <u>SOLO PRACTICE PROHIBITION</u>. Respondent is prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. Prohibited solo practice includes, but is not limited to, a practice where: 1) Respondent merely shares office space with another physician but is not affiliated for purposes of providing patient care, or 2) Respondent is the sole physician practitioner at that location.

If Respondent fails to establish a practice with another physician or secure employment in an appropriate practice setting within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. Respondent shall not resume practice until an appropriate practice setting is established.

If, during the course of the probation, Respondent's practice setting changes and Respondent is no longer practicing in a setting in compliance with this Decision, Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee within five (5) calendar days of the practice setting change. If Respondent fails to establish a practice with another physician or secure employment in an appropriate practice setting within 60 calendar days of the practice setting change, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. Respondent shall not resume practice until an appropriate practice setting is established.

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5. <u>CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATIONS AND REPORTS</u>. Within thirty (30) calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and on whatever periodic basis thereafter as may be required by the Board or its designee, Respondent shall undergo and complete a clinical diagnostic evaluation, including any and all testing deemed necessary, by a Board-appointed board certified physician and surgeon. The examiner shall consider any information provided by the Board or its designee and any other information he or she deems relevant, and shall furnish a written evaluation report to the Board or its designee.

The clinical diagnostic evaluation shall be conducted by a licensed physician and surgeon who holds a valid, unrestricted license, has three (3) years' experience in providing evaluations of physicians and surgeons with substance abuse disorders, and is approved by the Board or its designee. The clinical diagnostic evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with acceptable professional standards for conducting substance abuse clinical diagnostic evaluations. The evaluator shall not have a current or former financial, personal, or business relationship with respondent within the last five (5) years. The evaluator shall provide an objective, unbiased, and independent evaluation. The clinical diagnostic evaluation report shall set forth, in the evaluator's opinion, whether respondent has a substance abuse problem, whether Respondent is a threat to himself or herself or others, and recommendations for substance abuse treatment, practice restrictions, or other recommendations related to Respondent's rehabilitation and ability to practice safely. If the evaluator determines during the evaluation process that Respondent is a threat to himself or herself or others, the evaluator shall notify the Board within twenty-four (24) hours of such a determination.

In formulating his or her opinion as to whether Respondent is safe to return to either parttime or full-time practice and what restrictions or recommendations should be imposed, including participation in an inpatient or outpatient treatment program, the evaluator shall consider the following factors: Respondent's license type; Respondent's history; Respondent's documented length of sobriety (i.e., length of time that has elapsed since Respondent's last substance use);

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Respondent's scope and pattern of substance abuse; Respondent's treatment history, medical history and current medical condition; the nature, duration and severity of Respondent's substance abuse problem or problems; and whether respondent is a threat to himself or herself or the public.

For all clinical diagnostic evaluations, a final written report shall be provided to the Board no later than ten (10) days from the date the evaluator is assigned the matter. If the evaluator requests additional information or time to complete the evaluation and report, an extension may be granted, but shall not exceed thirty (30) days from the date the evaluator was originally assigned the matter.

The Board shall review the clinical diagnostic evaluation report within five (5) business days of receipt to determine whether Respondent is safe to return to either part-time or full-time practice and what restrictions or recommendations shall be imposed on Respondent based on the recommendations made by the evaluator. Respondent shall not be returned to practice until he or she has at least thirty (30) days of negative biological fluid tests or biological fluid tests indicating that he or she has not used, consumed, ingested, or administered to himself or herself a prohibited substance, as defined in section 1361.51, subdivision (e), of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations.

A clinical diagnostic evaluation before the effective date of this Decision may be accepted towards fulfillment of this requirement. The cost of the clinical diagnostic evaluation, including any and all testing deemed necessary by the examiner, the Board or its designee, shall be borne by the licensee.

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine until notified by the Board or its designee that he or she is fit to practice medicine safely. The period of time that Respondent is not practicing medicine shall not be counted toward completion of the term of probation.

Respondent shall undergo biological fluid testing as required in this Decision at least two (2) times per week while awaiting the notification from the Board if he or she is fit to practice medicine safely.

Respondent shall comply with all restrictions or conditions recommended by the examiner conducting the clinical diagnostic evaluation within fifteen (15) calendar days after being notified by the Board or its designee.

6. NOTICE OF EMPLOYER OR SUPERVISOR INFORMATION. Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall provide to the Board the names, physical addresses, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers of any and all employers and supervisors. Respondent shall also provide specific, written consent for the Board, Respondent's worksite monitor, and Respondent's employers and supervisors to communicate regarding Respondent's work status, performance, and monitoring.

For purposes of this section, "supervisors" shall include the Chief of Staff and Health or Well Being Committee Chair, or equivalent, if applicable, when Respondent has medical staff privileges.

7. <u>BIOLOGICAL FLUID TESTING</u>. Respondent shall immediately submit to biological fluid testing, at Respondent's expense, upon request of the Board or its designee. "Biological fluid testing" may include, but is not limited to, urine, blood, breathalyzer, hair follicle testing, or similar drug screening approved by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall make daily contact with the Board or its designee to determine whether biological fluid testing is required. Respondent shall be tested on the date of the notification as directed by the Board or its designee. The Board may order Respondent to undergo a biological fluid test on any day, at any time, including weekends and holidays. Except when testing on a specific date as ordered by the Board or its designee, the scheduling of biological fluid testing shall be done on a random basis. The cost of biological fluid testing shall be borne by Respondent.

During the first year of probation, Respondent shall be subject to 52 to 104 random tests. During the second year of probation and for the duration of the probationary term, up to five (5) years, Respondent shall be subject to 36 to 104 random tests per year. Only if there has been no positive biological fluid tests in the previous five (5) consecutive years of probation, may testing be reduced to one (1) time per month. Nothing precludes the Board from increasing the number of random tests to the first-year level of frequency for any reason.

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- (k) It maintains a secure, HIPAA-compliant website or computer system that allows staff access to drug test results and compliance reporting information that is available 24 hours a day.
- (1) It employs or contracts with toxicologists that are licensed physicians and have knowledge of substance abuse disorders and the appropriate medical training to interpret and evaluate laboratory biological fluid test results, medical histories, and any other information relevant to biomedical information.
- (m) It will not consider a toxicology screen to be negative if a positive result is obtained while practicing, even if the respondent holds a valid prescription for the substance.

Prior to changing testing locations for any reason, including during vacation or other travel, alternative testing locations must be approved by the Board and meet the requirements above.

The contract shall require that the laboratory directly notify the Board or its designee of non-negative results within one (1) business day and negative test results within seven (7) business days of the results becoming available. Respondent shall maintain this laboratory or service contract during the period of probation.

A certified copy of any laboratory test result may be received in evidence in any proceedings between the Board and Respondent.

If a biological fluid test result indicates Respondent has used, consumed, ingested, or administered to himself or herself a prohibited substance, the Board shall order Respondent to cease practice and instruct respondent to leave any place of work where Respondent is practicing medicine or providing medical services. The Board shall immediately notify all of Respondent's employers, supervisors and work monitors, if any, that Respondent may not practice medicine or provide medical services while the cease-practice order is in effect.

A biological fluid test will not be considered negative if a positive result is obtained while practicing, even if the practitioner holds a valid prescription for the substance. If no prohibited substance use exists, the Board shall lift the cease-practice order within one (1) business day.

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After the issuance of a cease-practice order, the Board shall determine whether the positive biological fluid test is in fact evidence of prohibited substance use by consulting with the specimen collector and the laboratory, communicating with the licensee, his or her treating physician(s), other health care provider, or group facilitator, as applicable.

For purposes of this condition, the terms "biological fluid testing" and "testing" mean the acquisition and chemical analysis of a respondent's urine, blood, breath, or hair.

For purposes of this condition, the term "prohibited substance" means an illegal drug, a lawful drug not prescribed or ordered by an appropriately licensed health care provider for use by Respondent and approved by the Board, alcohol, or any other substance Respondent has been instructed by the Board not to use, consume, ingest, or administer to himself or herself.

If the Board confirms that a positive biological fluid test is evidence of use of a prohibited substance, Respondent has committed a major violation, as defined in section 1361.52(a), and the Board shall impose any or all of the consequences set forth in section 1361.52(b), in addition to any other terms or conditions the Board determines are necessary for public protection or to enhance Respondent's rehabilitation.

8. <u>SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS</u>. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee, for its prior approval, the name of a substance abuse support group which he or she shall attend for the duration of probation. Respondent shall attend substance abuse support group meetings at least once per week, or as ordered by the Board or its designee.

Respondent shall pay all substance abuse support group meeting costs.

The facilitator of the substance abuse support group meeting shall have a minimum of three (3) years' experience in the treatment and rehabilitation of substance abuse, and shall be licensed or certified by the state or nationally certified organizations. The facilitator shall not have a currentor former financial, personal, or business relationship with Respondent within the last five (5) years. Respondent's previous participation in a substance abuse group support meeting led by the same facilitator does not constitute a prohibited current or former financial, personal, or business relationship.

The facilitator shall provide a signed document to the Board or its designee showing Respondent's name, the group name, the date and location of the meeting, Respondent's attendance, and Respondent's level of participation and progress. The facilitator shall report any unexcused absence by Respondent from any substance abuse support group meeting to the Board, or its designee, within twenty-four (24) hours of the unexcused absence.

9. WORKSITE MONITOR FOR SUBSTANCE-ABUSING LICENSEE. Within thirty (30) calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval as a worksite monitor, the name and qualifications of one or more licensed physician and surgeon, other licensed health care professional if no physician and surgeon is available, or, as approved by the Board or its designee, a person in a position of authority who is capable of monitoring Respondent at work.

The worksite monitor shall not have a current or former financial, personal, or familial relationship with Respondent, or any other relationship that could reasonably be expected to compromise the ability of the monitor to render impartial and unbiased reports to the Board or its designee. If it is impractical for anyone but Respondent's employer to serve as the worksite monitor, this requirement may be waived by the Board or its designee, however, under no circumstances shall Respondent's worksite monitor be an employee or supervisee of the licensee.

The worksite monitor shall have an active unrestricted license with no disciplinary action within the last five (5) years, and shall sign an affirmation that he or she has reviewed the terms and conditions of Respondent's disciplinary order and agrees to monitor Respondent as set forth by the Board or its designee.

Respondent shall pay all worksite-monitoring costs.

The worksite monitor shall have face-to-face contact with Respondent in the work environment on as frequent a basis as determined by the Board or its designee, but not less than once per week; interview other staff in the office regarding Respondent's behavior, if requested by the Board or its designee; and review Respondent's work attendance.

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The worksite monitor shall verbally report any suspected substance abuse to the Board and Respondent's employer or supervisor within one (1) business day of occurrence. If the suspected substance abuse does not occur during the Board's normal business hours, the verbal report shall be made to the Board or its designee within one (1) hour of the next business day. A written report that includes the date, time, and location of the suspected abuse; Respondent's actions; and any other information deemed important by the worksite monitor shall be submitted to the Board or its designee within 48 hours of the occurrence.

The worksite monitor shall complete and submit a written report monthly or as directed by the Board or its designee which shall include the following: (1) Respondent's name and Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate number; (2) the worksite monitor's name and signature; (3) the worksite monitor's license number, if applicable; (4) the location or location(s) of the worksite; (5) the dates Respondent had face-to-face contact with the worksite monitor; (6) the names of worksite staff interviewed, if applicable; (7) a report of Respondent's work attendance; (8) any change in Respondent's behavior and/or personal habits; and (9) any indicators that can lead to suspected substance abuse by Respondent. Respondent shall complete any required consent forms and execute agreements with the approved worksite monitor and the Board, or its designee, authorizing the Board, or its designee, and worksite monitor to exchange information.

If the worksite monitor resigns or is no longer available, Respondent shall, within five (5) calendar days of such resignation or unavailability, submit to the Board or its designee, for prior approval, the name and qualifications of a replacement monitor who will be assuming that responsibility within fifteen (15) calendar days. If Respondent fails to obtain approval of a replacement monitor within sixty (60) calendar days of the resignation or unavailability of the monitor, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. Respondent shall cease the practice of medicine until a replacement monitor is approved and assumes monitoring responsibility.

10. NOTIFICATION. Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall provide a true copy of this Decision and Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15 calendar days.

This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

- 11. <u>OBEY ALL LAWS</u>. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.
- 12. <u>QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS</u>. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation.

Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

# 13. GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

# Compliance with Probation Unit

Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit and all terms and conditions of this Decision.

## Address Changes

Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business and residence addresses, email address (if available), and telephone number. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

# Place of Practice

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Respondent's or patient's place of residence, unless the patient resides in a skilled nursing facility or other similar licensed facility.

# License Renewal

Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's license.

# Travel or Residence Outside California

Respondent shall immediately inform the Board or its designee, in writing, of travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than thirty (30) calendar days.

In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return.

- 14. <u>INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE</u>. Respondent shall be available in person upon request for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office, with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.
- 15. NON-PRACTICE WHILE ON PROBATION. Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing within 15 calendar days of any periods of non-practice lasting more than 30 calendar days and within 15 calendar days of Respondent's return to practice. Non-practice is defined as any period of time Respondent is not practicing medicine in California as defined in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 for at least 40 hours in a calendar month in direct patient care, clinical activity or teaching, or other activity as approved by the Board. All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be considered non-practice. Practicing medicine in another state of the United States or Federal jurisdiction while on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction shall not be considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice.

In the event Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation exceeds 18 calendar months, Respondent shall successfully complete a clinical training program that meets the criteria of Condition 18 of the current version of the Board's "Manual of Model Disciplinary Orders and Disciplinary Guidelines" prior to resuming the practice of medicine.

Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation shall not exceed two (2) years. Periods of non-practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term.

Periods of non-practice will relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws; and General Probation Requirements.

- 16. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u>. Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.
- 17. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u>. Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of probation.
  - A. If Respondent commits a major violation of probation as defined by section 1361.52, subdivision (a), of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, the Board shall take one or more of the following actions:
- clinical diagnostic evaluation to be conducted in accordance with section 1361.5, subdivision (c)(l), of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, at Respondent's expense. The cease-practice order issued by the Board or its designee shall state that Respondent must test negative for at least a month of continuous biological fluid testing before being allowed to resume practice. For purposes of the determining the length of time Respondent must test negative while undergoing continuous biological fluid testing following issuance of a cease-practice order, a month is defined as thirty calendar (30) days. Respondent may not resume the practice of medicine until notified in writing by the Board or its designee that he or she may do so.
  - (2) Increase the frequency of biological fluid testing.

the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender his or her license. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion in determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its designee and Respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation. If Respondent re-applies for a medical license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.

19. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS. Respondent shall pay the costs associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, which may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California and delivered to the Board or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar year.

# **ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Stephen M. Boreman. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

DATED: 6-11-19

RAVI KANT GOGNA, M.D. Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Ravi Kant Gogna, M.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: 6-12-19

STEPHEN M. BOREMAN Attorney for Respondent

# **ENDORSEMENT**

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California STEVEN D. MUNI Supervising Deputy Attorney General

RYAN J. YATES Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

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# Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2017-039196

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1 2	XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ	FILED STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA	
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General RYAN J. YATES	SACRAMENTO <u>april 29</u> 20 19 BY K. UDDWY ANALYST	
4.	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 279257	BI TI. DOUTS	
5	1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255	·	
6	Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 210-6329		
7	Facsimile: (916) 327-2247		
8	Attorneys for Complainant		
9			
10	BEFORE THE		
11	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
12	STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2017-039196	
14	Ravi Kant Gogna, M.D.	ACCUSATION	
15	1908 Coffee Rd., Ste. 3 Modesto, CA 95355		
17	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 39659,		
18	Respondent.		
19			
20	Complainant alleges:		
21	PARTIES		
22	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official		
23	capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer		
24	Affairs (Board).		
25	2. On or about April 4, 1983, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's		
26	Certificate No. A 39659 to Ravi Kant Gogna, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and		
27	Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought		
28	herein and will expire on July 31, 2020, unless renewed.		
1	1		

## **JURISDICTION**

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, be publicly reprimanded, or have such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.
  - 5. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

"The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct.\(^1\) In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

"(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.

- 6. Section 2236 of the Code states:
- "(a) The conviction of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act]. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction occurred.
- "(b) The district attorney, city attorney, or other prosecuting agency shall notify the Division of Medical Quality of the pendency of an action against a licensee charging a felony or misdemeanor immediately upon obtaining information that the defendant is a licensee. The notice shall identify the licensee and describe the crimes charged and the facts alleged. The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unprofessional conduct under California Business and Professions Code section 2234 is conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct which is unbecoming a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine. (Shea v. Board of Medical Examiners (1978) 81 Cal.App.3d 564, 575.)

prosecuting agency shall also notify the clerk of the court in which the action is pending that the defendant is a licensee, and the clerk shall record prominently in the file that the defendant holds a license as a physician and surgeon.

- "(c) The clerk of the court in which a licensee is convicted of a crime shall, within 48 hours after the conviction, transmit a certified copy of the record of conviction to the board. The division may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of a crime in order to fix the degree of discipline or to determine if the conviction is of an offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.
- "(d) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction after a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section and Section 2236.1. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the conviction occurred."
  - 7. Section 2239 of the Code states:
- "(a) The use or prescribing for or administering to himself or herself, of any controlled substance; or the use of any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section 4022, or of alcoholic beverages, to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to the licensee, or to any other person or to the public, or to the extent that such use impairs the ability of the licensee to practice medicine safely or more than one misdemeanor or any felony involving the use, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances referred to in this section, or any combination thereof, constitutes unprofessional conduct. The record of the conviction is conclusive evidence of such unprofessional conduct.
- "(b) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section. The Division of Medical Quality may order discipline of the licensee in accordance with Section 2227 or the Division of Licensing may order the denial of the license when the time for appeal has elapsed or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4

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of the Penal Code allowing such person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, complaint, information, or indictment."<sup>2</sup>

8. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1360, states:

"For the purposes of denial, suspension or revocation of a license, certificate or permit pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the code, a crime or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a person holding a license, certificate or permit under the Medical Practice Act if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a person holding a license, certificate or permit to perform the functions authorized by the license, certificate or permit in a manner consistent with the public health, safety or welfare. Such crimes or acts shall include but not be limited to the following: Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of the Medical Practice Act."

# FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Use of Alcohol in a Dangerous or Injurious Manner) .

9. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2239, of the Code, and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1360, in that he has used alcoholic beverages to the extent, or in such a manner, as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, or to any other person or to the public, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

# November 21, 2017, Arrest for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol.

10. On or about November 21, 2017, at approximately 6:46 P.M., a California Highway Patrol officer (CHP) responded to a call reporting a property damage hit-and-run traffic collision on Tully Road, in Modesto, California.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> There is a nexus between a physician's use of alcoholic beverages and his or her fitness to practice medicine, established by the Legislature in section 2239, "in all cases where a licensed physician used alcoholic beverages to the extent or in such a manner as to pose a danger to himself or others." (Watson v. Superior Court (Medical Board) (2009) 176 Cal.App.4th 1407, 1411.)

- 11. Upon arrival at the scene of the accident, approximately ten (10) minutes later, the CHP officer made contact with two individuals (Witness 1 and Victim 1), who proceeded to converse with him about the events leading up to the accident, which occurred at approximately 6:00 P.M.
- 12. When asked what had happened, Victim 1 stated that he was driving his vehicle northbound on Tully Road, south of Palmdale Avenue, in Modesto, California. As he was stopped at a stoplight for approximately thirty (30) seconds, his car was rear ended by a vehicle, later determined to be driven by Respondent. Following the collision, Victim 1 and Respondent exited their cars, at which point Victim 1 observed Respondent stumbling in the street. Respondent walked around his car, looked at the damage, then began to walk away from the scene of the accident on northbound Tully Road.
- 13. When asked by the CHP officer about the collision, Witness I responded that prior to the collision, he was in his vehicle at a stoplight before the intersection of Snyder Road and Tully Road, next to the vehicle being driven by Respondent, approximately 0.1 miles from the scene of the accident. Witness I observed that Respondent appeared to be visibly intoxicated. This behavior included Respondent swaying back and forth in the driver's seat, as he was trying to reach for his seatbelt.
- 14. As the traffic light turned green, Respondent's vehicle accelerated, then hit the vehicle being driven by Victim 1, without braking. After the accident, Witness 1 observed Respondent exit the vehicle, where he could smell the scent of alcohol emanating from Respondent. Respondent then wobbled back and forth while attempting to pick up pieces of his car. Witness 1 then observed Respondent attempt to walk away from the scene of the collision. Witness 1 pursued Respondent, where he witnessed Respondent stumble into oncoming traffic and fall numerous times.
- 15. At approximately 7:23 P.M., the CHP officer made contact with Respondent at Bangs Avenue and Tully Road (approximately 0.2 miles from the scene of the accident), and detained Respondent in his patrol vehicle. While questioning Respondent, the CHP officer observed that Respondent's speech was slow and slurred, his eyes were red and watery, and smelled the odor of

alcohol emanating from Respondent's breath and person. The CHP officer asked Respondent what happened at the time of the collision. Respondent replied, "I have no idea how the crash happened," or words to that effect. Respondent was then asked why he left the scene of the accident after the collision. Respondent replied, "I didn't know what to do," or words to that effect. After being asked how much he had to drink, Respondent replied, "just two (2) vodka shots," or words to that effect.

- 16. The CHP officer administered a series of Field Sobriety Tests (FSTs) which Respondent was unable to complete as explained and demonstrated. At approximately 8:10 P.M., Respondent was placed under arrest. While under arrest, Respondent consented to providing a blood sample. Respondent was then transported to The Doctors Medical Center, in Modesto, California. At approximately 9:15 P.M., Respondent's blood was drawn. Following the chemical test, Respondent was transported to the Stanislaus County Public Safety Center, in Modesto, California, where he was booked for violations of California Vehicle Code, sections 23152(a) (Driving under the influence of alcohol) and 20002(a) (Hit-and-run causing property damage only).
- 17. On or about December 1, 2017, the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Forensic Services, issued a forensic report with a complete analysis of the December 21, 2017, blood draw on Respondent. The blood test results revealed that Respondent had tested positive for 0.303 grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood, with a measurement uncertainty of plus/minus 0.014 grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood.
- 18. On or about April 19, 2018, a Criminal Complaint was filed against Respondent in the matter of The People of the State of California vs. Ravi Kant Gogna, Case No. CR18000203. Respondent was charged with the following:

"COUNT I: On or about November 21, 2017, defendant did commit a misdemeanor, DRIVING WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL, violation of Section 23152(a) of the California Vehicle Code, in that the defendant did willfully and unlawfully drive a vehicle while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage.

**SEPARATE VIOLATION:** It is further alleged that within ten years of the commission of the above offense, said defendant committed a violation of Vehicle Code Section 23152(b) on or about the 20th day of August, 2010, and was duly convicted in the Superior Court, County of El Dorado, State of California. (Docket #100859)

**SPECIAL ALLEGATION:** It is further alleged that the defendant had a blood alcohol content of .15% or higher, within the meaning of Vehicle Code Section 23578.

COUNT II: On or about November 21, 2017, defendant did commit a misdemeanor, DRIVING WITH BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL OF 0.08% OR ABOVE, violation of Section 23152(b) of the California Vehicle Code, in that the defendant did willfully and unlawfully drive a vehicle while having 0.08 percent or more, to wit, .30% by weight, of alcohol in his blood.

**SEPARATE VIOLATION:** It is further alleged that within ten years of the commission of the above offense, said defendant committed a violation of Vehicle Code Section 23152(b) on or about the 20th day of August, 2010, and was duly convicted in the Superior Court, County of El Dorado, State of California. (Docket #100859)

**SPECIAL ALLEGATION:** It is further alleged that the defendant had a blood alcohol content of .15% or higher, within the meaning of Vehicle Code Section 23578.

COUNT III: On or about November 21, 2017, defendant did commit a misdemeanor, HIT AND RUN, violation of Section 20002(a) of the California Vehicle Code, in that the defendant was the driver of the vehicle involved in an accident resulting in damage to property, who did willfully and unlawfully fail, refuse and neglect to locate and notify the owner or person in charge of such property and did willfully and unlawfully fail, refuse and neglect to leave in a conspicuous place on the property damaged a written notice giving the name and

address of the driver and of the owner of the vehicle involved and a statement of the circumstances thereof and without unnecessary delay notify the police department and local headquarters of the Department of the California Highway Patrol of the place where the collision occurred."

- 19. On October 5, 2018, Respondent pled Nolo Contendere to Count No. 2, violation of Section 23152(b) of the California Vehicle Code (driving with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% or higher). Respondent's sentence was as follows:
  - a. Serve sixty (60) consecutive days in jail, with two (2) days credit, followed by informal misdemeanor probation for thirty-six (36) months;
  - b. Make full restitution in an amount and manner to be ordered by the Court;
  - Do not knowingly use or possess any alcoholic beverages or be in or about any
    place of business where the primary item sold is alcoholic beverages for
    consumption on the premises;
  - d. Do not knowingly drive with a measurable amount of alcohol in your blood;
  - e. Submit person, residence & vehicle to search anytime by any Peace Officer for alcohol;
  - f. Enroll in and complete the enhanced, level two (2) Drinking Driver Program; and
  - g. Do not knowingly drive unless properly licensed and insured.

# SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Conviction of a Crime Substantially Related to the Qualifications, Functions, or Duties of Physician and Surgeon)

20. Respondent is further subject to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2236, of the Code, and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1360, in that he has been convicted of a crime, to wit: violation of Section 23152(b) of the California Vehicle Code (driving with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% or higher), 2<sup>nd</sup> offense, a

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misdemeanor, which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a physician and surgeon, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 9 through 18, above, which are hereby realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

# THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Violation of the State Medical Practice Act)

21. Respondent is further subject to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (a), of the Code, and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1360, in that he has violated a provision or provisions of the Medical Practice Act, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 9 through 19, above, which are hereby realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

# FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (General Unprofessional Conduct)

22. Respondent is further subject to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, of the Code, in that he has engaged in conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct which is unbecoming a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 9 through 20, above, which are hereby realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

# - **DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS**

23. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent Ravi Kant Gogna, M.D., Complainant alleges that on or about September 2, 2011, in a prior criminal proceeding entitled *The People of the State of California vs. Ravi Kant Gogna* in El Dorado County Superior Court, Case Number S10CRM0859, Respondent was convicted for violating Section 23152(b) of the California Vehicle Code (driving with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% or higher), a misdemeanor, and was ordered to summary probation for four (4) years; to not operate a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license and automobile insurance; to not operate a motor vehicle with any measureable amount of alcohol; to submit to chemical test of

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DATED: April 29, 2019 KIMBERLY KIRCHMEYER
Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California Complainant SA2019101026 13561713.docx 

(RAVI KANT GOGNA, M.D.) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2017-039196